Meeting with Victor Marchetti 2/17/74

Backrgound. Last time I had been in Bud's office Marchetti, who seemed familiar but who I did not recognize because he also appears much younger than his pictures, was sitting and waiting for an hour that I also wasted. When he left with Bud and Bill, Bill introduced us, explaining he was sorry, that he had though we knew each other. After they left I told Lesar that I had long wanted to get together with him because I believe we can help each other and asked him to set up a metting at a mutually convenient time. Jim did not so when it was decided that I would go to DC yesterday to meet with Bud and Jim on Ray case preparations, I reminded Jim and asked him to make a date. He phoned back to say that Marchetti said he was pretty busy and got up early a.m.s. Jim had joked, "Oh, another Weisberg!" But he had indefiniteness, not a date. So I asked him to tell Marchetti that while I could not be sure and lawyers might see it differently I believe I have what can be of value to him in the present ligitation and I told Jim to make the date for any time before or after we meet with Bud. It was set up for 11:30 at the Saville Book Store. When I entered Marchetti, dressed in a red denim, immatation caracul-lined and collared jacket, was int eh back of the store without a purchased. Jim joined us when he had parked his car and we walked dwon Wisconsion to the People's drugstore on the other side. We were together about an hour and a half. All pleasant and Marchetti is coming here when he can. He wrote instructions on napkin.

I began by explaining the government record in my cases, all FOI and this in a sense parallels of his. In all cases lies, sometimes crossing into perjury, in all cases rinally adjudicated all official claims established as officially false and designed only to deceive courts to the end that embarrassing information be withheld, etc. I gave him description of extent of files in case he or the lawyers could find any use. Long enough description. He appreciated and said what can I do for you and I said I wqs interested in what I believe gave him no oath problems, proscribed CIA domesttic activities and particularly Hunt's. I was explicit in what I said but not details: that I believe he interfered with Whiteash. Marchetti had no knowledge but assumed this happened and said it was fairly common, that one of the Covert Activities(CA) was to prevent publication of the unwanted. He had indefeinite recollection of Hunt'd domestic work and wondered if it coincided with his last foreign assignment.

I asked him about Mexico and he said it was the largest CA operation in ~~XXXX~~ Latin America, a really large one. I asked balck propaganda, disinformation and he agreed. I asked him if I were to give him names could he identify and he said unlikely. I didn't.

He knew of interest in assassinations and that in some form very often at staff mtgs with directors, daily when Garrison-Shaw stuff hot news. Took the form of Directors asking how things were going and were t ey giving enough support. It got embarrassing after a while so the story was spread around that there had been an earlier and long past connection of innocent nature withShaw. This was inconsistent with continuing interest in what was going on and could there be more help.The explanation was not offered into the CIA's own people at the staff meetings started asking each other questions. Note: not at all the story attributed to him by the underground press nuts.

He knew there was a NO.O. base but nothing about it. The name Hunter Leake meant nothing (~~sixti~~ chief base). My desxription St. Charles office door madehim laugh and say sounds like it to which he added it is amazing how long there were unsophisticated about these kinds of matters and details, well into the 60s. Noe more sophisticated.

I asked himabout 1750 Penna Ave and here he was specific. Station there, large domestic station, with satellite bases in same building or closeby. He knew fact but not details and agreed to go over xerox city directory Lesar is to show to makr those offices that from the name seem to be probables. I asked him if it were likely that when there was an entire floor that was a single commercia-appearing busines and the rest a military group this seemed like an operations. His reply, typical method and he knew station was there.

He lacked details on Mullen-Bennett and when I said Cuban Freedom Committee, he shushed me, perhaps because my voice may have risen.

He confirms trade reports his book coming out soon with blank spaces. He laughed in telling this and suggested rather strongly that some unrequired blanks were being added to exploit what the CIA is going, where the reader will readily fill them in.

He has learned about publishers. Said Knopf did not spring into fray immediately from principle. I laughed and said "commercial interest only." He also laughed and said that until there was the probability of serious loss Knopf was inactive, merely keeping options open.

He seems interested in assassination, wants my books and I said when he came up I'd give them to him.

Told him history intrusions with O in NO and he said it seemed likely this was official. They have a way of getting hungup over trivia, what cannot really hurt them.

He confirmed our belief on the spuriousness claim of national-security interest in what they hide, saying it is common.

He seems not to believe the Shaw cover story of the staff mettings but also not to know more. He says he is sorry he paid no more attention to the fomestic work of which he had known but sought and retained no details he could recall but he will now try to recall anything he might have noted.

He was unaware of runors of coming indictments top people.

He alsoindicated that the coming book has some contents that will interest me. Itook this to mean that where he has knowledge of my expressed areas of interest the book has relevant contents he is not going to discuss in advance of publication and I did not ask any questions about it.

Public Affairs Staff and Radio-TV reports meant nothing ~~xxxxx~~ to him but he seemed to have some recognition of Radio Reports (which is, I think, the way it began) and of RTV, which he thinks we should check in incopporations papers. Strong hint about Delaware corporations ued by CIA. Gave him one PAS name,Drewry. Meant nothing to him. He knew of similar surveillance done abroad. Widespread, common.

I have the impression that he believes proscribed domestic and other illegal CIA activities are more widespread than geberally know. He did not say this. My impression only.

He does not recognize Clarkson Potter as Agency publisher. I asked.

USIA offices likely cover for CIA personnel, especially those who had worked in countries and return to UA and appear to be USIA experts on thos countries. Agrees that USIA offices, esp. "overflows" and "foreign expositions" near station likely bases.

Seems to be outdoorsman, fisherman. Will bring sons when he comes so it will probably be weekend, probably not until after hearing two weeks from now.

HW 2/17/74